

off welfare and into jobs. It forces education and training to take a back seat to tax breaks for fat cats and special interests.

Mr. Speaker, with this bill, the new majority has declared war on our children and war on our workers. It must be defeated.

I have heard from workers across the country about the new majority's effort to weaken workplace health and safety rules. Over and over again, spouses, parents, and children tell me that they are willing to see some of their taxes go toward enforcing health and safety rules so that they can be assured that their loved ones will come home from their jobs in the mines and other dangerous jobs, so they come home at night safe and sound.

The majority, however, do not see it that way. The Labor-HHS appropriation bill makes it clear that the new majority would rather invest in a tax break for the wealthy few than in education, training, health, and safety for American workers.

In fact, if this HHS bill passes, they will be showing a triple feature down at our local theaters in the near future. It will be called "Dumb and Dumber" with "Sick and Sicker" and "Poor and Poorer." And let me say to my colleagues, it is not going to be a bargain matinee. No doubt about it. This sweeping and radical legislation is going to harm American workers and cost this Nation dearly in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, like I said earlier, the faults of this bill are much too numerous to mention. I urge all Americans who care about the health and safety and the education and training of workers and for all of their loved ones to tell their representatives to oppose this dangerous bill.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I join today in decrying the Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We will be funding the Labor Department, and in what the bill provides, it is an outright attack on working men and women throughout this country. The Republican majority is using this appropriations bill to circumvent the appropriate legislative process in order to push through an antiworker agenda.

The 30-percent cut in funding of the National Labor Relations Board and language restricting the Board's authority to use its enforcement tools is a direct attack on the basic rights of employees to organize unions.

The right of workers to join together as one unit and bargain collectively for better wages, health care, and other benefits and safe working conditions has been an integral part of American

law for more than a half a century. The National Labor Relations Board protects this right and resolves disputes between employers and employees.

Even without 1 hour of hearing, this appropriations bill, by cutting funds, undermines the ability of the National Labor Relations Board to protect the rights of working men and women and by legislative proviso ties their hands regarding enforcement. Unfair labor practices brought to the Board will languish, violations of law will go unchecked, and labor disputes will be prolonged.

Anyone with experience in business knows that timeliness is crucial to both employers and employees in the resolution of labor disputes. When disputes linger, productivity suffers, workers suffer, and families suffer.

This is not about protecting a bureaucracy. It is about protecting working people, people who get up every morning and go to work to face hazardous working conditions or unfair treatment. It is about protecting their ability to band together and petition for decent working conditions and decent wages.

The Republican bill is a blatant attempt to get rid of longstanding protections for working men and women in this country. I urge my colleagues to vote against this repudiation of the rights of working people.

MEDICARE RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled this weekend when, having thought that perhaps we were going to bring a lowered style of rhetoric to the debate on Medicare, in fact, what happened is that the administration brought out, along with some of the liberal Democratic leaders of the Congress, they trotted out the big lie again for the centerpiece of their campaign to save Medicare, or is it the centerpiece of their campaign to smear and attack Republicans?

It seems to me that what has happened here is we have gotten into an incredibly demagogic style of rhetoric regarding Medicare, and it is just not right. It simply is not fair to senior citizens that we should be dealing in a partisan way with what is clearly a policy problem. It is a problem for everybody who is 65 or older, or whoever thinks that they might be 65 or older, because it is a problem with the fundamental question of whether or not we are going to be able to pay for the Medicare program based on the way that it is projected to go forward at this time.

It is very clear from this summary, which is a status report; what it is is a summary of an annual report that has to be made to the President and to Congress as a matter of law.

Every single year, the trustees of the different trust funds have got to make a report, and this is their report, and it is not just the Medicare trust fund. It is also the Social Security trust fund and the disability insurance trust fund.

The one that is the most telling and problematic is the Medicare trust fund, and it is absolutely the job of every responsible legislator in this body to both read this, take it seriously, and do something about it.

This is also not a partisan issue. It is not a partisan document. This is a document that was signed by three members of the President's Cabinet, Secretaries of Labor, HHS, and Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Rubin, and it was also signed by Shirley Chater, who is the Commissioner of Social Security, also another Presidential appointee.

If it is a partisan document, then it is a Democrat partisan document. It is certainly not a Republican partisan document, and it says very clearly, in plain language that every American should read, the Medicare trust fund is going broke. It is going to be without money. It is bankrupt next year. It is without any money in 7 years. It is spending more than it takes in next year. It is exhausted in 7 years.

That is under not the worst-case scenario, according to the trustees. That is under the middle scenario, and it does not take into account the real problem that comes forward in about the year 2020 when people of my age, baby boomers, become eligible for Social Security and Medicare.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED OSHA CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the war on workers and families in America will be escalated this week when the Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill reaches the floor of the House.

For all matters concerned with workplace protections, this Republican appropriations bill is not focused on appropriations. This is, instead, a stampede into radical authorizing legislation. The authorizing Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities is rendered obsolete by what the Committee on Appropriations is doing. The antiworker, antiunion Republican overlords have chosen to bypass the authorizing process and implement their war against the workers by cutting the funds for OSHA, MSHA, and NIOSH.

We have also provisions which require that OSHA cannot use but two-thirds of its funds, present funds, for enforcement activities, cuts the enforcement budget by 33 percent. It also cuts out economically targeted investments. It bans the use of such funds from the pension funds for economically targeted investments.

It allows 14 year olds to load bailers and compactors, although as recently